

## What We've Accomplished Together



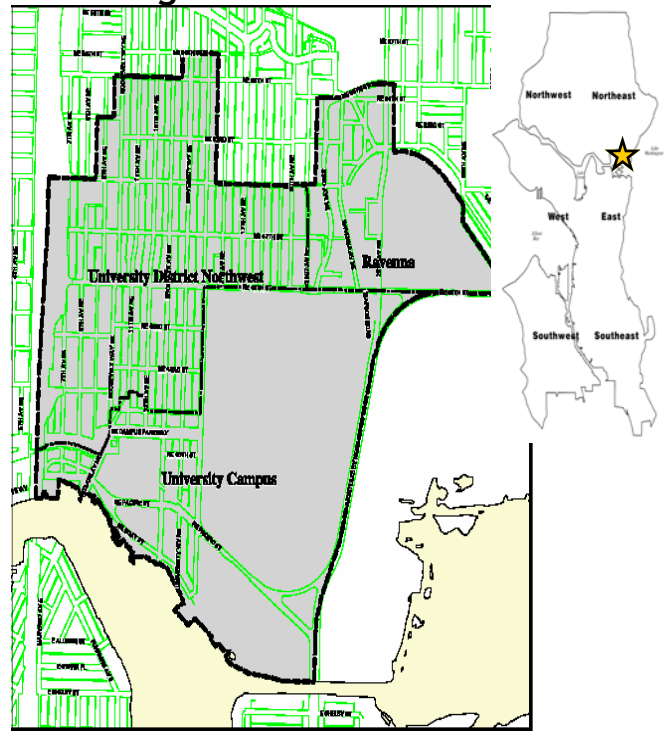
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor  
Yvonne Sanchez, Dir., Dept. of Neighborhoods

### Neighborhood: University

Plan Adopted: 1998

#### Key Elements:

1. Support vibrant commercial districts serving local needs and offering regional specialties
2. Provide neighborhood recreation facilities and open space
3. Upgrade the area's physical identity
4. Actively work with the University of Washington on areas of mutual interest
5. Increase public security



University Community  
Urban Center  
Northeast Sector

#### What happened in 2002

- **The Ave Project** - The Ave Project is a \$9M total street reconstruction that replaces essentially all infrastructure while widening sidewalks and introducing public art to University Way NE. The Ave Project broke ground in June, 2002 at Campus Parkway and will end at NE 50th. The project is funded through a combination of Federal and local dollars.
- **University Heights Business Plan** - The Department of Neighborhoods (DON) selected Bay Area Economics, of San Francisco, and their Seattle subconsultants MAKERS, to develop a business plan for the University Heights Center for the Community Association and the 100-year-old Seattle Public Schools facility.
- **University Heights South Grounds Improvements** - DON partnered with the University of Washington's Regional Affairs Office and School of Landscape Architecture to leverage approximately \$60K of Neighborhood Plan Early Implementation Funds into dramatic improvements to the south grounds of University Heights, valued at over \$250,000. Other generous supporters included SAFECO, community members, and City and UW staff.
- **Ravenna Creek Daylighting and Associated Projects** - A partnership between King County and the City of Seattle is resulting in several improvements associated with Ravenna Creek, including interpretive artwork outside the boundaries of the park, a daylighted creek within Ravenna Park, and creek and trail improvements along the creek's path from Cowen Park to Ravenna Park.
- **University of Washington Campus Master Plan** - The majority of the official public process for the approval of the UW Master Plan took place in 2002, including comments and testimony on the Environmental Impact Statement (issued in late 2001).
- **Help for Businesses** - The City's Office for Economic Development targeted its Façade Improvement Program, aimed at helping small businesses enhance their appearance, to the University District to leverage opportunities presented by the Ave Project's construction.
- **Noise Control** - City staff began discussions on a new, more effective noise ordinance to provide both DCLU and the City's police greater tools in prosecuting repeat and problem noise offenders in the U.District's residential areas.

## What's Underway in 2003

- **Completion of the Ave Project** - and a community celebration in August. The Ave Project is projected to come in under budget and ahead of schedule. At least two long-term small businesses, La Tienda Folk Gallery and Schultzy's Restaurant reported their best business ever since reconstruction of their block.
- **Planning and design of improvements to NE Campus Parkway** — With cost savings from the Ave Project, the City, community, and UW are working together to create a much finer gateway to the Ave, the University District, and the University of Washington.
- **Completion of the University Heights Business Plan** and a set of recommendations to the Board for future direction.
- Council adoption of the **University of Washington Campus Master Plan**. Seattle City Council adopted the UW's Campus Master Plan in early 2003.
- Continued public process surrounding **Sound Transit's North Link light rail alignment**. After considering public comments, the board will identify a preferred North Link route in fall of 2003. For more information, visit: <http://www.soundtransit.org/linkrail/central/central.htm>
- **Completion of Ravenna Creek daylighting** and associated projects. A consultant selected jointly by the City and community is developing a two phase design including wetland improvements along the existing stream banks and an extension of the stream. For more information visit: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/RavennaCreekatRavenna.htm>
- The Parks and Recreation Department is working with the community to select a **site for a new park**. This Urban Center was targeted for \$1M in Pro Parks Opportunity Fund. Selection of a site is expected by the end of this year. For more information, visit: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/udistrict.htm>
- Using the funds available from the voter-passed Housing levy, the Office of Housing identified the **University District** as a priority area for both owner-occupied and rental housing incentives to increase development opportunities.
- **Increased police patrols**—The City's Office of Policy and Management and Seattle Police Department entered into an agreement with the University of Washington, SAFECO, The University Bookstore, University Towers Hotel, and Wells-Fargo Bank to provide over \$251,000 in additional funding for police presence on **University Way NE ("The Ave")** over the next two years.
- The University of Washington is providing an **ongoing design studio** for small businesses to receive assistance in designing their façade improvements.

## Who to Contact

### At the City

Karen Ko, Neighborhood District Coordinator, 233-3732, [karen.ko@seattle.gov](mailto:karen.ko@seattle.gov)

Deirdre Grace, Neighborhood Development Manager, 684-8896, [deirdre.grace@seattle.gov](mailto:deirdre.grace@seattle.gov)

### Department of Neighborhoods Plan website:

[www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/npi](http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/npi)

### In the Neighborhood

Teresa Lord-Hugel, U District Chamber of Commerce, 547-4417

Patty Whisler, The Ave Group, 522-1181

### Neighborhood Plan Partners

Paul Gibson, NE District Council, 323-1851, [cgibson@aa.net](mailto:cgibson@aa.net)

### City Neighborhood Council Neighborhood Planning Committee

Cindi Barker - 425-266-2533, [cbarker@qwest.net](mailto:cbarker@qwest.net)

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South Grounds,  
University Heights Center

*Neighborhood plan implementation is a program of the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods in partnership with other City departments. DON works with 38 communities across Seattle to help meet the challenge of urban growth.*